to the Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of officers cadre of the Army have been issued by the Government:—

(i) Grant of substantive ranks of Captain at 2 years, Major at 6 years and Lieutenant Colonel at 13 years of service.

(ii) Grant of rank of Colonel (Time Scale) on completion of 26 years of service.

Upgradation of 750 posts/appointments of Lieutenant Colonels in a phased manner with 400 posts having been upgraded in the first year i.e., 2004 and 350 posts are proposed to be upgraded in the second year i.e. 2005.

Similar proposals for the Navy and Air Force are under the consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Ajai Vikram Singh Committee did not give any recommendation pertaining to cadre restructuring of army doctors including dentists and veterinary doctors since the same were not included in its terms of reference. However, a proposal in respect of these organizations is being formulated in consonance with the overall recommendations of all three Services.

Implementation of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report

814. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report to ensure more younger officers to command field, in so far as Army wing is concerned by creating 750 additional vacancies at the Colonel rank upgraded from Lieutenant Colonel rank, introducing a system of time bound promotion at 13 years for Lt. Col. and 26 years for Colonel, the first promotion to captain rank being after 2 years instead of 4 years and to Major after 6 years instead of 10 years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken to ensure younger officers with respect to the Air Force and Naval Wing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee, the following orders relating to the Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of officers cadre of the Army have been issued by the Government. The grant of these benefits are subject to fulfillment of the eligibility criteria prescribed for each of these ranks:—

(i) Grant of substantive ranks of Captain at 2 year, Major at 6 years and Lieutenant Colonel at 13 years service.

(ii) Grant of rank of Colonel (Time Scale) on completion of 26 years of service.

In addition, orders have also been issued for upgradation of 750 posts/ appointments of Lieutenant Colonels to Colonels in a phased manner. 400 posts/appointments stand upgraded in the first year i.e. 2004 and 350 posts/appointments are to be upgraded in 2005.

A proposal for grant of similar benefits to non-select ranks of Air Force and Navy has already been initiated.

Promotion prosects in the Army

†815. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army is far behind in the matter of promotion as compared to civil services;

(b) if not, the comparative details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the youths are disinclined to join Army due to difficult situations and lack of opportunities as well; and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no comparison between the Army and civil services as the terms and conditions of service are entirely different.

(c) Sustained efforts, like Image Projection Campaigns and seminars and lectures in schools and colleges, are made to motivate the youth to join the Army. As the economy progresses and new avenues open up to the youth they would prefer the easier option first.

(d) The recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee are already under consideration of the Government. A part of these recommendations have since been accepted with respect to Non Select Ranks and also implemented. Similarly, an Assured Career Progression Scheme has been implemented for Other Ranks.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.